

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6665

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16177

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON KOREAN RELATIONS

1. IN COURSE OF FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 11, NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT JAPANESE SHOULD STOP PRESSING SEOUL GOVERNMENT "TOO MUCH" ON KIM DAE-JUNG CASE. HE NOTED THAT THE KOREAN PRIME MINISTER HAD TRAVELLED TO JAPAN TO EXPRESS REGRET OVER THE CASE, AN ACT WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE KOREANS POLITICALLY, AND WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. MIYAZAWA SAID THAT JAPAN SHOULD STRIVE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE HOLDING OF A JAPAN-KOREA CABINET MINISTERS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS MUTUAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

2. ASKED TO COMMENT ON MIYAZAWA'S REMARKS, NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR SEO STRESSED THAT NEW FONMIN HAD NOT YET BEEN BRIEFED BY FONOFF ON KOREAN QUESTION, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN NOTABLY CAUTIOUS WHEN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON THIS AREA DURING PRESS CONFERENCE. AS SOON AS HE HAD HAD CHANCE TO BRIEF MIYAZAWA (PROBABLY
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WITHIN NEXT TWO DAYS), SEO WOULD HAVE CLEARER IDEA OF NEW

FONMIN'S VIEWS ON SUBJECT.

COMMENT: MIYAZAWA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD KIM DAE-JUNG CASE
IS NOTABLY MORE CONCILIATORY TOWARD SEOUL THAN EITHER THAT
OF HIS PREDECESSOR KIMURA OR THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE
FONOFF. REMAINS TO BE SEEN EXTENT TO WHICH THESE VIEWS
WILL BE ALTERED OR QUALIFIED AFTER FORMAL BRIEFING BY
BUREAUCRACY. OUR TENTATIVE GUESS IS THAT MIYAZAWA'S
REMARKS MAY IN TURN SET TONE FOR BRIEFING TO COME AND MAY
PRESAGE FORMAL SOFTENING OF GOJ POSITION ON TENDENTIOUS
KIM QUESTION.
SHOESMITH

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